

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-2, 5-7, 9-12, 15-17, and 19-20 are pending. Claims 3-4, 8, 13-14, and 18 have been canceled. Claims 1-2, 5-7, 9-12, 15-16, and 19-20 have been amended. Support for amended claims can be found in the specification. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bacon et al., "Thin Locks: Featherweight Synchronization for Java," ACM 1998 (hereinafter referred to as "Bacon"). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the claims in light of the amendments and following remarks. Applicants respectfully submit that Bacon does not teach or suggest each and every feature of the present invention as claimed. For example, claim 1 recites, in part, "a first stack corresponding to a data area of the first thread and a second stack corresponding to a data area of the second thread, the first stack and the second stack being separated by at least a reserved area." Nowhere does Bacon discuss this feature as claimed.

In fact, Applicants believe Bacon does not discuss at all the relative address locations of Bacon's thread A to thread B. Examiner simply states that Bacon discloses this feature because "... field A and [field] B (referred as stack-based local lock slot structure for addressing stack variables to identify threads) are separated fields." (Office Action: p. 3). Presumably, Examiner is stating that Bacon's thread A is separate from thread B. Even so, Bacon does not discuss that thread A and thread B are to be separated by at least a reserved area. In Bacon, thread A and thread B can be in adjoining address locations. Accordingly, claim 1 should be allowed for at least the above reasons. Claims 2, 5-7, and 9, which depend from claim 1, should be allowed for at least a similar rationale as discussed above for claim 1, as well as the additional features they recite.

It should be noted the deficiencies of Bacon discussed above become more evident in view of the dependent claims. For example, claim 5 recites "[t]he contention locking scheme is configured to maintain the light lock when an address difference between a current lock slot of the first thread for the lightly locked object and that of the nested intra-thread locking attempt is determined to be less than the reserved area." Nowhere does Bacon teach or suggest

this feature as claimed. Examiner relies on Figure 1 to support his rejection of claim 5. However, Figure 1 does not, in any way, indicate Bacon uses an address difference to identify threads, much less use of a reserved area as claimed.

Claim 10 recites, in part, "to compare an address difference between a current lock slot of the first thread for the lightly locked object and that of the nested intra-thread locking attempt with a size of a reserved area." As discussed above, Bacon does not discuss this feature as claimed. Accordingly, claim 10 should be allowed for at least this reason.

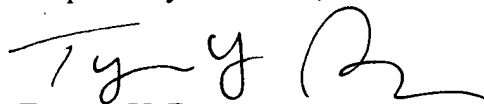
Claim 11 recites, in part, "the second stack being separated from the first stack by at least a reserved area at an end of a stack." Bacon does not teach or suggest this feature as claimed. As far as Applicants can tell, nowhere does Bacon discuss a reserved area at an end of a stack. Accordingly, claim 11 should be allowed for at least this reason. Claims 12, 15-17, and 19-20, which depend from claim 11, should be allowed for at least a similar rationale as discussed for claim 11, as well as the additional features they recite.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,


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